

## BOOK REVIEWS

**EXERCISES IN NEUROLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS—Second Edition—**John H. Tyrer, MD (Sydney), FRCP(Lond), FRCP(Edin), FRACP, Professor of Medicine, University of Queensland; Senior Neurologist, Royal Brisbane Hospital; Honorary Consulting Physician, Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Brisbane; and John M. Sutherland, MD (Glasgow), FRCP(Edin), FRACP, Senior Neurologist, Royal Brisbane Hospital and Royal Brisbane Children's Hospital; Honorary Reader in Neurology, University of Queensland. Churchill Livingstone Medical Division, Longman, Inc., 19 West 44th St., New York City (10036), 1975. 311 pages, \$17.50.

This book is designed to be used by medical students, but—I venture to add—could be read with profit by any physician who deals with neurological patients and who wishes to test his clinical acumen on straightforward problems. There are twenty "clinics" in the book. Each clinic consists of four case descriptions. After the descriptions there are discussions of each case including differential diagnosis and treatment. Then follow several multiple choice questions based on the cases in the section. The cases are grouped in no particular order, and one can go through the four cases in each clinic much more quickly than is usually necessary for a published clinicopathologic conference. A brief index at the end makes it possible to find the case representing a particular diagnostic problem.

I enjoyed going through this book because in this era of self-assessment examinations, there was instantaneous feedback (and perhaps also because I picked most of the diagnoses correctly). The cost, however, seems to be on the high side for a paperback.

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**PHYSICIAN'S HANDBOOK—Eighteenth Edition—**Marcus A. Krupp, MD, Clinical Professor of Medicine, Stanford University School of Medicine, Director of Research, Palo Alto Medical Research Foundation, Director of Laboratories, Palo Alto Medical Clinic; Norman J. Sweet, MD, Associate Professor of Medicine, San Francisco General Hospital, University of California, San Francisco; Ernest Jawetz, PhD, MD, Professor and Chairman, Department of Microbiology, Professor of Medicine, Lecturer in Pediatrics, University of California, San Francisco; Edward G. Biglieri, MD, Professor of Medicine, Chief of Endocrine Services, San Francisco General Hospital, University of California, San Francisco; and Robert L. Roe, MD, Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco. Lange Medical Publications, Drawer L, Los Altos, CA (94022), 1976. 754 pages, \$8.00.

*Physician's Handbook* is a small but plump book measuring 10.5 cm by 17.7 cm by 2.5 cm thick. For those needing conversion factors, they may be found in Table 3, page 714 of the volume. As were previous editions of the book, this edition is well bound with a flexible cover reasonably resistant to moisture and other contaminants that might be found in the working milieu of a physician.

This volume has as its primary audience medical students and house officers; it contains an extraordinarily complete set of data analysis—all that an average physician might need. No space is wasted including the inside of the covers of the book.

The book deals with the interpretation of the data base that one might gather in examining and testing a patient. This material is supplemented with sections detailing certain diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and the utilization of some therapeutic modalities, such as particular drugs, hormones, oxygen and aerosol therapy. There is a very interesting chapter on the utilization of diets.

The first three chapters—which have to do with emergency medical examination, outlines for history taking and physical examination, and neurologic diagnosis—represent a useful review for any physician in any specialty. I particularly liked the chapter on endocrine

function and tests and felt that it was up-to-date and useful for practicing physicians. This volume is not meant to be used as a test for the management of disease states but rather as a quick reference volume which will give you a way to interpret the findings of almost any procedure that you might ask for in the examination and testing of a patient.

The volume deserves a place among the reference books of any physician involved in the primary care of patients. It will probably be this type of volume against which the value of computers, as an information service, will be measured. If, as has been prophesied, doctors will some day have a computer terminal on their desk, that terminal will have to have information as quickly and readily accessible as one can find in a volume of this sort. I think the computer will find this a difficult task.

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**RECENT ADVANCES IN UROLOGY—Number Two—**Edited by W. F. Hendry, ChM, FRCS, Consultant Urologist, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Royal Marsden Hospital and Chelsea Hospital for Women; Senior Lecturer, Institute of Urology, London. Churchill Livingstone Medical Division, Longman, Inc., 19 West 44th St., New York City (10036), 1976. 353 pages, \$32.50.

The title is somewhat misleading. The preface quite accurately states that "Many of the chapters have deliberately included much basic information . . ." and this factor quickly becomes evident to the reader. It therefore seems to this reviewer that a fitting title would be "Current Concepts in Urology."

The volume is a very "meaty" compendium of current thought and knowledge in the various aspects of the urologic specialty. There are 15 contributors in addition to the editor, W. F. Hendry. The latter contributes in whole or in part to four of the chapters. The contributors all appear to be well chosen for knowledge and competence in their respective sections.

There are areas of criticism of course. In the chapter devoted to the biochemical aspects of stone disease, I felt that there was room for further discussion of therapy with phosphates. Furthermore I did not find reference to the work of Prien and others with magnesium. The author of this section accepts the diagnosis of "idiopathic hypercalciuria" as though this common enough term was a truly definitive term rather than a working hypothesis. The chapter on urinary tract infections is quite up-to-date but I thought that there was room for more in depth discussion of chemotherapy.

I particularly enjoyed the chapters on obstructive uropathy in children and those on renal replacement therapy and urothelial neoplasia. They are concise and very readable statements on these complicated subjects.

This volume is particularly well suited to internists and general practitioners. American readers will find a few confusing variations in terminology, such as in catheter and medication names, but the issue is a minor one. I have often thought, however, that in those books containing technical terms and which are distributed in several English speaking countries where there is a variation in usage, a brief section giving the terminology counterparts would be worthwhile.

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